

Sec. 10. Except as provided in Section 4(b) hereof, this Act shall be effective upon its ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 19th day of May, 1967.

## S. B. 364

## CHAPTER 532

AN ACT TO VALIDATE AND CONFIRM ALL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS HERETOFORE MADE BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE.

*The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:*

Section 1. All actions of the Governing Board of the City of Jacksonville heretofore taken in levying special assessments for local improvements in the City of Jacksonville, Onslow County, and all special assessments heretofore made by said governing board and all special assessment rolls heretofore made by said governing board are hereby, in all respects, ratified and confirmed. Nothing contained in this Act shall affect pending litigation.

Sec. 2. All laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This Act shall be in full force and effect upon its ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 19th day of May, 1967.

## S. B. 447

## CHAPTER 533

AN ACT TO DECLARE OWNERSHIP OF ALL BOTTOMS IN CERTAIN WATERS WITHIN THE STATE AND TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING SALVAGE OF ABANDONED SHIPWRECKS AND OTHER UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES.

WHEREAS, extensive discoveries of and recoveries from the sunken underwater archaeological remains of Confederate, United States, and British vessels in the waters off the coast of North Carolina have been made during the past five years; and

WHEREAS, thousands of historically and archaeologically significant and valuable artifacts from shipwrecks have been recovered, preserved, studied and interpretively displayed in museums in North Carolina and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the survey, recovery and retention of historic sunken ships and associated artifacts along the entire North Carolina coast is vital to the interpretation of North Carolina history, government, and culture to the citizens of the State; and

WHEREAS, these artifacts and the vessels from which they come are in danger of destruction or loss due to the elements of nature and by various individuals or groups; and

WHEREAS, underwater archaeological sites extend along the entire length of the North Carolina coast and number in the hundreds, resulting in widespread uncontrolled exploration, damage, and removal of archaeological materials; and